

Office of Councilmember Nancy Pyle

Dear District 10 Friends & Residents,

It is hard to believe that two years have passed since I took office. It has been a pleasure to work with so many wonderful people and organizations for the betterment of District 10. As a former teacher and community advocate, I came to the City to make a difference. I am pleased to say that there have been many successes in our neighborhoods, one of the many reasons why I find my job so rewarding.

Serving as a San Jose City Councilmember is an awesome responsibility. Each of the 10 Councilmembers represents roughly 90,000 residents, which is roughly equal to the populations of Campbell, Morgan Hill and Los Gatos combined. We also cast about 2000 votes annually. There are many challenges to face, but there is always a feeling of immense satisfaction at the end of the day. I know everyone on my staff – Lee, Linda, Eric, Stephanie, and Kathy – feel the same way. We all strive to make a difference in residents' lives and for the City as a whole.

My main focus has been on neighborhoods and our children. This includes defending crossing guard funding, slowing down traffic around schools, improving parks and libraries, and improving and adding sports fields.

Over the past year, I visited many schools in my District and discussed with principals, teachers, and parents, City programs such as homework centers, sports fields, and ways to improve traffic and pedestrian safety.

As a Councilmember whose District suffers from a lack of sports fields, I have devoted much of my time trying to improve our existing fields and finding space for others. In this spirit I authored the Community Sports Field Feasibility Study which will enable the rest of my colleagues on the City Council to understand the increased demand for sports fields and look for areas in each Council District that would be suitable for additional fields. I also worked with San Jose Unified School District to jointly develop 3 turf soccer fields at Leland High School. This will add to the District 10 inventory and by using field turf will allow greater long term use for the Almaden Valley Youth Soccer League.

In addition, I also worked with the Almaden Valley Youth Soccer League to open additional locations for our children. One of the most important steps I took was authoring the Park Dedication Ordinance and Park Impact Ordinance (PDO/PIO), which will increase fees on development for parks. This will ensure the City can improve existing parks and have the needed funding to buy land for sports fields.

School safety has been a top priority of mine since my term began. During my first two budget cycles I have fought tirelessly to defend possible cuts to the program. While I was able to restore crossing guards to many of our schools, I plan to fight again in May for all of our schools to be funded, despite an anticipated \$21 million deficit projection in 2007.

One of the projects that I care deeply about was the completion of the Almaden Community Center and Library. Recently I was sent a report that stated over 4,000 people come the Community Center and Library daily and nearly \$250,000 was raised by local residents to purchase additional library materials.

A major reason for my interest in serving on the City Council was to ensure not only the safety of our

children, but all residents. I currently serve as Vice-Chair of the Emergency Preparedness Council and our City has been successful at securing and spending over \$10 million to prepare our residents for a disaster. We still have much work to do in this effort and in 2007 I plan to work with City staff to prepare a neighborhood emergency response plan. Part of this will include training residents through the City's San Jose Prepared! Program.

Throughout the year, I co-chaired the Coyote Valley Task Force and worked hard to protect District 10 from possible impacts. A few of the mitigations include improvements to Highway 101, an improved in-valley transit system, and a Caltrain Station, all of which should lessen the impact to District 10. Still as this process moves forward I will be asking many residents to give input, so please keep checking the District 10 web site for updates.

In December a project came to Council which would have lead to development in the South Almaden Urban Reserve (SAVUR). I authored a memo which denied the development proposal, and also asked our planning department to conduct a growth assessment of the SAVUR. It is my goal that this information will be used so the Council can determine whether possible new restraints are needed to more effectively protect the environmental resources, open space and our residents' quality of life, such as a City and County moratorium on building.

After attending numerous neighborhood meetings this year I asked our City Manager to draft a plan to help shopping centers in District 10. Residents have complained about blight occurring regularly at our shopping centers. Also, many local businesses have come to me to discuss the hardship they face in regards to the shopping centers and working with the City. I felt it was important the City assist these shopping centers with façade grants and other important measures that would assist tenants, attract more business, and provide residents with deserved services.

Lastly, as I head into 2007 I have been appointed the Chair of the Community and Economic Development by Mayor Reed. This committee will manage the growth and change of the City in order to encourage a strong economy while maintaining our healthy neighborhoods.

Please feel free to contact me at 408-535-4910 or at <u>district10@sanjoseca.gov</u> if you would like to discuss these or any other matters. You can also visit the District 10 web site at <u>www.sanjoseca.gov/district10</u> for more information.

Sincerely,

Nancy Pyle

Councilmember, District 10

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